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BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH  
OF  
Gen. Charles W. Darling  
UTICA, N. Y.

Extract from the  
MEMORIAL HISTORY OF UTICA,  
By DR. M. M. BAGG.  
1892.







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In Exch.

Wis. Hist. Soc.

## GEN. CHARLES W. DARLING.

GEN. CHARLES W. DARLING was born in New Haven, Conn. His family is of New England origin, having intermarried with the families of Pierpont, Noyes, Chauncey, Ely, Davis, and Dana. His great-grandfather, a graduate of Yale, was Hon. Thomas Darling, an eminent jurist who resided in New Haven, Conn., and who married Abigail Noyes, granddaughter of Rev. James Pierpont, of New Haven. The paternal grandfather of Gen. Charles W. was Dr. Samuel Darling, of the same city, a graduate of Yale who married Clarinda, daughter of Rev. Richard Ely, of Saybrook, Conn. His youngest son, the father of General Darling, was Rev. Charles Chauncey Darling, who was graduated at Yale College and at Princeton Theological Seminary, and having entered the ministry subsequently made his residence in New York. He married Adeline E., daughter of William Dana, of Boston, and granddaughter of Gen. Robert Davis, an officer of artillery in the war of the Revolution.

The boyhood years of General Darling were devoted largely to study under the guidance of a private tutor. After matriculating at the classical and mathematical department of the New York University he passed through its regular curriculum, and at the end of the course entered as clerk a mercantile house in New York. Several years later he became connected as secretary of an incorporated company under the presidency of Commodore C. K. Garrison. Shortly afterward he resigned his position to accept the presidency of a manufacturing company, with which he was associated several years. When he ceased his immediate relations with business he made his first trip to Europe to gratify those literary and artistic tastes which his active life had forbidden. Returning from his Continental trip when the question of the possible secession of the South from the Federal Union was receiving much public discussion he connected himself with the National Guard of New York, and when Hon. Edwin D. Morgan was elected governor he was appointed a member of his staff with rank of colonel. He also identified himself with political matters and was president of one of the Republican organizations of his district. By his decision of character he united many discordant elements in the party, subdued the passions of some, deepened the love of country in the hearts of others, and preserved order frequently under difficult circumstances. When in the summer of 1863 New York became the scene of riots General Darling was called upon to perform difficult and dangerous duties, and his firm stand on that memorable occasion received the most cordial approbation of the military as well as the civil authorities. As the following letters have a historical as well as a personal signification for the first time they are given publication :

"HEADQUARTERS FIRST DIVISION N. Y. S. N. G., }  
NEW YORK, July 21, 1863.

"Col. C. W. Darling,

"COLONEL:--Having a vacancy on my staff I shall be happy to receive you as a member of my military family as volunteer aide-de-camp, you to retain your rank of colonel. At the same time I take occasion to express my thanks for your services during the late riot. I am, very respectfully,

"Your obedient servant,

"CHARLES W. SANDFORD, *Major-General.*"

"NEW YORK, August 17, 1863.

"Col. C. W. Darling,

"COLONEL:--It always gives me pleasure to do justice to those who are prompt in discharging the duty which they owe to their fellow citizens in resisting violence, let it come from what source it may. Your gallant and efficient efforts to put down the riot in New York, so disgraceful to the city, on the 13th, 14th, and 15th of July last, entitle you to the thanks of a grateful people. I am,

"Very respectfully yours,

"JOHN E. WOOL, *Major-General U. S. A.*"

"STATE OF NEW YORK, }  
"DEPT. OF THE COMMISSARY-GENERAL OF ORDNANCE, }  
NEW YORK, August 22, 1863.

"Col. C. W. Darling,

"COLONEL:--I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication informing me of your instructions to the commanding officer of the Eighth Regiment to withdraw his command from the State Arsenal, and to thank you for so doing. Permit me to express my thanks for the energy displayed during the scenes of disorder that occurred in our city in the month of July, and to assure you that we will recall with pleasure the names of yourself and fellow officers with whom the occasion brought us in close connection, and to whose efforts the State and this Department are much indebted.

"Very respectfully yours,

"W. R. FARRELL, *Commissary-General of Ordnance.*"

"MAYOR'S OFFICE, NEW YORK, August 24, 1863.

"Col. C. W. Darling,

"DEAR SIR:--Accept my thanks for your energetic and efficient service on the occasion of the disloyal outbreak in this city on the 13th, 14th, and 15th of last month. The help of the military in subduing the riot was invaluable, and among them I was pleased to recognize yourself as prominent for gallantry and good conduct in the performance of the duty devolving upon you. It gives me pleasure to find that General Wool, in command of the United States troops called on duty, General Sandford, commanding the First Division N. Y. S. N. G., and the Commissary-General of Ordnance have accorded to you so much credit for the part you took on that occasion. I trust that our city may never again undergo a similar trial, but if it should I hope that we may find in the hour of need many such as yourself coming forward equally prompt, earnest, and efficient to perform the patriotic duty of defending government and order against treason and anarchy. With high regard,

"Very truly yours,

"GEORGE OPDYKE, *Mayor.*"



Early in 1864 Colonel Darling received the appointment of additional volunteer aide-camp on the staff of Maj.-Gen. Benjamin F. Butler, then in command of the Army of the James, and was assigned special duties at his temporary headquarters in New York. At this time the draft was to be enforced, when it was anticipated that new disturbances might occur, threatening the peace of the State. As it was known that the authorities had made every preparation, and 16,000 men under arms were afloat in the harbor, no attempt was made to resist the enforcement of the law. When Hon. Reuben E. Fenton was elected governor of the State of New York in 1865 Colonel Darling was recommended for the position of head of one of the military departments. His qualifications for the important trust were supported by recommendations from Major-Generals Butler, Doubleday, and Warren; Brigadier-Generals Van Vliet, Webb, Davies, Morris, Gordon, and Granger; and twenty-one commandants of regiments and batteries in the field. A large number of influential politicians also joined in the request, among whom were the mayor of New York, the collector and surveyor of the port, the postmaster, the chairman of the Union Central Committee, and several members of Congress. This powerful influence thus brought to bear upon the administration had its effect and Colonel Darling, in view of his past business training and his reputation for order and integrity, was assigned to duty in the paymaster-general's department, which at this critical period was of the first importance. As many of the soldiers were being mustered out through the expiration of their terms of enlistment no little watchfulness and executive ability were required to protect the interests of the brave defenders of their country as well as those of the government. Nearly every New York regiment had unsettled accounts with the Federal and State governments, and many unprincipled claim agents were following the soldiers like sleuth hounds. The pressure to which the occupant of this responsible office was subjected at this period is well illustrated by the following brief quotation from one of the New York daily papers:

"The number of claimants at the office of Colonel Darling averages about 200 daily. He is beset with land-sharks, bounty-brokers, middlemen, etc., who are trying all sorts of ways to grab a portion of the money being disbursed, but the colonel thwarts all their contrivances in the shape of offered presents, commissions, percentage, etc., and will manage affairs so that every man who is justly entitled to pay shall receive the same without drawbacks or deductions."

The drafted men in the city who furnished substitutes and who were reimbursed by the State were also notified to file their claims at this office, where they were examined and passed over to the supervisors at New York for final adjustment. The vouchers were sent by the supervisors to the paymaster-general at Albany and the funds were transmitted from headquarters for payment to individuals. At the Union State Convention of the Republican party held in Syracuse, September, 1866, among the delegates from the city of New York was General Darling. When the roll of delegates was called it was claimed that the delegates sent from the Seventh Assembly District represented the conservative element and were hostile to the radicals who called the convention. It caused some excitement; a recess was called, and during this recess General Darling with wise diplomacy reconciled opposing factions by resigning his seat in favor of Sinclair Tousey upon condition that his two associates should compose with him the delegation. This arrangement was acceptable to the convention and the re-

nomination of Governor Fenton was thus secured beyond a doubt and made unanimous. Had this course not been adopted it has been gravely doubted whether Governor Fenton would have been elected for a second term. In 1866 Colonel Darling was commissioned as commissary-general of subsistence, which brought him into still closer relations with Governor Fenton as a member of his military cabinet. This office he held until January 1, 1867, when, on the re-election of the governor, General Darling received the appointment of military engineer-in-chief of the State of New York with the rank of brigadier-general. When the administration of Governor Fenton was nearing its close General Darling applied for and obtained leave of absence to visit Europe again on a tour of instruction and pleasure.

While in England he received many courtesies; among the various invitations extended to him was one from Lord Elcho to meet the Prince of Wales and the Duke of Cambridge, and be present with them on a review of troops at Aldersholt. In a subsequent trip abroad with his wife he traveled extensively through Europe, Asia, and Africa, making the trip up the Nile, through Ethiopia and Nubia, as far as the river is navigable. During this time many articles from his pen appeared in our journals of a historical and political as well as of a social character. Having means at his command, which renders him independent of business cares, General Darling has been able to gratify to the utmost his literary and scientific tastes. Ten years of his life have been devoted to foreign travel in nearly every country on the globe, and from this broad experience he has returned with a knowledge of national manners and customs and a fund of general information which has been of great value in his writings. Intensely fond of historical studies he has prosecuted his investigations in this department of learning with unusual diligence and with excellent results. His writings cover a wide range of themes, which he handles with skill, and in a way to interest both the specialist and the general reader. His high character, scholarly attainments, and distinguished public services have given him a large acquaintance with many of the public men of the day and earned for him many scientific and literary honors.

His active interest in public affairs and his prominent connection with some of the most stirring events happening in his time have necessarily made him to a certain extent a conspicuous figure among his fellow citizens, by whom he is held in universal esteem. Notwithstanding the fact that he has persistently held aloof from politics, preferring the more congenial pursuits of literature and historical research, he has several times been asked to become a candidate for municipal positions, but while appreciating the honor he has declined all political preferment. His work is performed quietly among his books, from which he feels that nothing save the gravest condition of public affairs can separate him. For several years he held the office of president of the Young Men's Christian Association of Utica, his present adopted home, and he is now one of its directors. Those who are familiar with the past struggles of that association for life concede that he carried it through the most critical period of its history. As a result of those arduous undertakings an elegant structure has been erected for the Utica Young Men's Christian Association by its friends, and the building is considered one of the most conspicuous ornaments of the city. General Darling was also a member of the State Executive Committee of Young Men's Christian Associations and on the expiration of his term of office in 1888 he was elected one of its trustees. His interest in

religious matters, however, is not confined to affairs connected with this department of Christian work. He is a ruling elder in the First Presbyterian Church of Utica, and in the private life to which he has retired he is the object of the warm regard of a large circle of friends. Through his connection with the Oneida Historical Society he has cultivated his taste for historical studies and his literary productions are numerous. He never writes for pecuniary compensation, and the monographs, brochures, essays, excerpts, etc., which he frequently sends out are printed for private distribution.

On the 21st of December, 1857, General Darling married Angeline E., second daughter of Jacob A. Robertson, a wealthy and highly respected citizen of New York. His father was Archibald Robertson, the Scotch artist who painted from life the celebrated miniatures on ivory of General and Martha Washington, during the time when he was sojourning as a guest in the family of the "First President." His brothers were Andrew J., Alexander H. (who at the time of his decease was grand master of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of New York), and Anthony L., surrogate of New York in 1848 and chief justice of the Superior Court in 1860-69. A sister of these brothers married Henry Winslow, founder of the banking house bearing his name. Another sister married Robert N. Tinson, of England and well known as a resident of New York city. General Darling has no children to inherit the honor of a good name, but his fondness for the little ones makes him always a favorite with them.

In 1891 he was elected president of the Uplands Park Improvement Company, of Pueblo, Col., and when this company merged its interests in the South Side Land Syndicate Company, of the same place, he became its president. This organization has a capital paid in of \$518,000; it was incorporated under the laws of Colorado and its home office is in Denver. W. H. Chamberlin, of the Chamberlin Investment Company, is associated with him as first vice-president and A. W. Chamberlin, of the same company, is treasurer. With such strong influence as this company can command it bids fair to become an important factor in building up the young city of Pueblo, which is already becoming a formidable rival of Denver, 150 miles distant. General Darling has also recently been selected as a member of the advisory council of the World's Congress Auxiliary of the World's Columbian Exposition on historical literature. This congress is authorized and supported by the Exposition corporation for the purpose of bringing about a series of conventions of the leaders, at home and abroad, in the various departments of human progress during the Exposition season of 1893. It has been approved and recognized by the government of the United States, and its general announcement has been sent to foreign governments by the Department of State. An appropriation on account of its expenses has been made by an act of Congress.

General Darling is a "Son of the Revolution" by reason of his being a great-grandson of Gen. Robert Davis, of the artillery under General Washington. He is also member of the American Historical Association and of the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society; Fellow of the Society of Science, Letters, and Art, London, England, and associate member of the Victoria Institute; honorary member of the Chautauqua Society of History and Natural Science, New York; Waterloo Historical Society, New York; New Jersey Historical Society, Alabama Historical Society, Mississippi Historical Society, Iowa Historical Society, and Alaska Historical Society; and corresponding member of the American Ethnological Society, Academy of Anthro-

pology, American Numismatic and Archaeological Society, Buffalo Historical Society, and the Cayuga County Historical Society, all of New York. In the State of Maine he is in the same manner connected with the Bangor Historical Society; in New Hampshire with the Historical Society of Concord; in Vermont with the Middlebury Historical Society; in Massachusetts with the New England Historic-Genealogical Society, the Dedham Historical Society, the Old Colony Historical Society, and the Ipswich Historical Society; in Rhode Island with the Newport Historical Society; in Connecticut with the Connecticut Historical Society, the New Haven Colony Historical Society, the Fairfield County Historical Society, and the Saugatuck Historical Society; in Ohio with the State Archaeological and Historical Society and the Western Reserve Historical Society; in Pennsylvania with the Numismatic and Antiquarian Society, the Linnean Historical and Scientific Society, and the Wyoming Geological and Historical Society; in New Jersey with the Burlington County Lyceum of History and Natural Science; in North Carolina with the Historical Society of Chapel Hill; in Indiana with the Geological and Historical Society at Indianapolis; in Maryland with the Historical Society of Baltimore; in Virginia with the Historical Society at Richmond; in Georgia with the Historical Society at Savannah; in Tennessee with the Historical Society at Nashville; in Wisconsin with the Historical Society at Madison; in Minnesota with the Historical Society of St. Paul; in Kansas with the Historical Society at Topeka; in Nebraska with the Historical Society at Lincoln; in California with the Historical Society at San Francisco and Los Angeles; and in Canada with the Quebec Historical Society. He is a life member of the Oneida Historical Society at Utica, N. Y., and its corresponding secretary.





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